

Many Receiving S. S. Benefits

Growth of the old-age and survivors insurance system in the U. S., as just reported to Congress in the 1948 Federal Security Agency annual report, is reflected in this area by data from the local social security office. Mr. Louis H. Clement, manager, stated today that as of June 30, 1948 when data in the Agency report was compiled, there were 2,071 people in the 7 counties served by the Salisbury, N. C. office who were receiving \$29,300.00 monthly in old-age and survivors insurance benefits. He said that by the end

of April 1949 these figures had increased to an estimated 2,400 people receiving \$34,000.00, monthly, or a general increase of about 16 per cent during the 10-month period.

The Social Security Administration section of the report, prepared by Arthur J. Altmeyer, Commissioner for Social Security, showed that in the United States on June 30, 1948, there were 2,168,000 persons receiving monthly benefits amounting to \$42,400,000. These Federal insurance benefits go to insured, retired workers over 65, their wives if over 65, and their dependent children, and to the widows, children, and dependent parents of insured wage earners who have died.

Interim reports which have been prepared show that by April 30, 1949, the number of these insurance beneficiaries had climbed on up to \$2,480,000 men, women and children getting benefits at the rate of \$49,750,000 per month. As Altmeyer observed in the preface to his report, "The Social Security programs operated during the fiscal year 1948 in a setting of full employment, a record peacetime production of goods and services, and rising prices. . . . Earnings were higher, and the aggregate volume of savings increased."

The Social Security Administration's section of the report, covering operations of the Children's Bureau and the Bureau of Public Assistance, Employment Security, and Old Age Insurance, is being received with special attention this year because of several proposals for changes in these programs now under study in Congress. Under mandate from Congress to submit recommendations for needed revisions in the law, the Administration proposed in the report, with respect to old-age and survivors insurance, that

(1) Coverage for wage earners be extended to farm people, the self-employed, domestic workers, and most other gainful workers now excluded;

(2) The rate of benefits be substantially increased, from the present maximum for a family of \$85 up to a possible \$150. Most beneficiaries, present and prospective, would have their monthly increased 70 per cent or more.

(3) The age of eligibility for women to receive benefits be reduced from 65 to 60.

(4) Beneficiaries be permitted to earn as much as \$50 per month in employment without losing eligibility for their monthly payments. The present limit is \$14.99 per month.

(5) A worker's earnings up to \$4,800 per year be subject to tax—and corresponding credit toward benefits—rather than the present limit of \$3,000 per annum.

The Social Security Administration also urged enactment of a system of cash benefits for disabled insured workers. This plan, integrated with the present old-age and survivors insurance, would provide monthly benefits on a similar basis when a worker incurred a period of extended disability or was permanently disabled. Legislation embodying such proposals has been the subject of hearings in the House of Representatives during recent months.

The Agency report submitted to the Congress, as well as a separately published section on social security alone, will be available as public documents. Mr. Clement said that summaries he had received show an array of facts on administration of the social security plan, which has been in effect since January 1, 1937.

A total of 76.9 million living wage earners had earned some wage credits under the system by January 1, 1948. The study shows that of these 36.8 million persons were fully insured, including 11.6 million who are both fully and permanently insured. An additional 5.7 million persons have worked long enough to be currently insured, for protection of their families.

Mr. Clement said that benefits being paid here high-light the family protection offered by old-age and survivors insurance, as emphasized in the report. At this time, he said, approximately 54 per cent of the local beneficiaries are children and mothers with children in their care. The remaining 46 per cent are insurance beneficiaries 65 years of age or over.

Musical Arts Club In Regular Meeting

The Musical Arts Club held its regular meeting in the home of Mrs. Andrew F. Kilby on Thursday evening, May 26.

Miss Ellen Robinson presided over the business session. The following officers for the coming year were elected:

President, Miss Ellen Robinson; First vice president, Mrs. A. F. Kilby; second vice president, Mrs. J. G. Gambill; secretary, Mrs. Lewis Vickery; treasurer, Miss Lois Scroggs; custodian of music, Mrs. C. T. Doughton.

Mrs. Kilby had charge of the program an interesting feature of which was a number of piano selections played by Betty Nash McIver, Buddy Triplett, Doris Ann Godbey, and Mary Ann Casady.

Another in a series of studies concerning the history of music was given by Miss Mildred Bradford. Her subject was "Music in the Days of the Roman Empire and Early Church."

Mrs. Harold Riley of St. Louis, Missouri, who is visiting her mother, Mrs. Rosa Reves, was a guest. She told the club of her various activities as a member of the largest music club in her city.

The club members presented Miss Bradford with a "going-away" gift.

The cohostesses, Miss Mary Lindsay Stafford, Miss Evaingham, Miss Myrtle Norris, Mrs. Thomas McLaughlin and Mrs. Kilby served refreshments consisting of cake, coffee, and nuts. The next meeting will be held in September.

Frozen Foods Topic Buggaboo Home Club

The regular monthly meeting of Buggaboo Home Demonstration club was held in the home of Mrs. Don Poplin. Miss Ruth Thompson, assistant county home agent, was present to give a demonstration on frozen foods. She actually prepared some lima beans ready for freezing. Even though we do not have lockers, we gathered information on what to freeze to utilize precious space. The selection of good products and types of containers to use. Some may be getting new home freezers in the near future and the more we learn how to use them the better service we need to expect. Frozen foods have more nutritive value and are more palatable as well as they retain natural color. At our business session we de-

ided to sell chances on a club quilt recently quilted and the president of club is to see the winner gets the quilt.

While enjoying the refreshing tea served at close of meeting a few timely household hints were exchanged.

Some special meetings of interest are coming up in June. One on "Sanding Floors" the 22nd. All interested should make plans to attend.—Reported by Mrs. C. R. Byrd.

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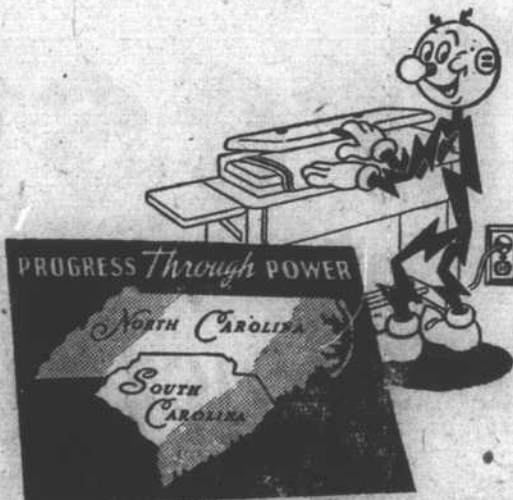
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Aunt Agatha was quick motioned as a wren. Just watch her iron a shirt, folks would say . . . She can flirt it and flounce it, twist it and turn it, put it through all the hundred and one positions and motions a shirt must go through before it's ironed. Then she holds it up, slick as a chinquapin and white as cotton fluff—done to perfection so fast she had to use only two hot irons!



But Aunt Agatha's namesake Aggie is unimpressed. "Quaint," says Aggie, "but sad. Hardly seems fair that just by being born fifty years later, I can have electric energy for ironing and scores of other uses—at a price that makes it the biggest bargain in my house, too."

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